

Forest Lands

In 2008 New Hampshire was the second most forested state in the United States, with 83 percent of our state covered by forests. Around a hundred years ago the farms of Fitzwilliam began disappearing as farmers moved to richer farmland in the Midwest. Those abandoned farm fields grew up into forests.

In 2008, forest land in current use and conservation easements accounted for about 13,748 acres in Fitzwilliam which was a decrease from about 19,000 in 1996. The forests continue to include mixed hardwoods along with mixed softwoods. The majority of species are red oak, yellow, white and grey birch, white pine, red and white spruce, balsam fir, eastern hemlock, and red and sugar maple. There are some areas dominated by American beech as well as black spruce found in moist soil or wetland areas.

There has been recent interest in protecting the town forests and privately owned forest lands with conservation easements.

In the inventory of 1996 it was noted that there was little timber harvesting being done in Fitzwilliam. The Department of Revenue in Concord, New Hampshire, has been keeping computerized records of tax revenue returned to the town of Fitzwilliam from timber harvested from private lands since 2003. In those six years 133 Intents to Cut Forest Lands have been processed and tax monies returned to the town. While it is not possible to calculate board feet included in these cuts, white pine, white birch, red pine, spruce, oak, ash, beech, soft maple, hard maple, and hemlock have been harvested. Some of the timber harvesting is the result of house lots cleared for building. There are also some species taken specifically for pallets and cord wood. The remainder of the harvested timber is leaving this area for other commercial purposes.

It is not difficult to realize that the forest lands which have been converted to other use will reduce the usable areas of potential wildlife habitat for many years to come.

TREES

SHRUBS AND WILDFLOWERS

American Cranberry
Ash
Beech, uncommon
Black Cherry
Black Tupelo, rare
Butternut, uncommon
Dogwood
Grey Birch
Hemlock
High Bush Blueberry
Hobble Bush
Lodgepole Pine, uncommon
Low Bush Blueberry
Maple Leaf Viburnum,
Mountain Laurel
Red Maple
Red Pine
Rhododendron Major
Rock Maple
Sassafras, uncommon
Shadbush (Serviceberry)
Sheep Laurel
Spindle Bush, rare
Spruce
Tamarack, uncommon
White Birch
White Pine

Anemone
Baneberry, (Doll's Eye), rare
Bearberry
Bindweed
Blackberry
Black-eyed Susan
Bloodroot
Blue-eyed Grass
Bottled Gentian, rare
Bunchberry
Buttercup
Catchfly
Dock
Dutchman's Breeches
False Solomon's Seal
Ferns
Foamflower
Ginger
Golden Rod
Green Fringed Orchid, rare
Indian Paintbrush
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Joe-pye Weed
Mallow
Mayapple, rare
Meadow Rue
Meadow Sweet

Milkweed
Mullein
New England Aster
Oxeye Daisy
Partridgeberry
Pearly Everlasting
Phlox
Pink Lady slipper
Pipsissewa, rare
Queen Ann's Lace
Raspberry
Snake Root
Solomon's Seal
Spotted Touch-Me-Not
Spurge
Starflower
Sundew
Trailing Arbutus, Mayflower, rare
Trillium, white and red,
 uncommon
Trout Lily
Turk's-cap Lily
Twinflower
Wild Columbine
Wild Lily of the Valley
Wood Betony, rare
Yarrow

Baneberry (Doll's Eye)



Photo by Oliver and Jacquie Taylor

Rhododendron Major



Photo C.A.Rocheleau

Hobble Bush



Photo C.A.Rocheleau

AQUATIC AND MARSHLAND PLANTS

Bog Cranberry
Broadleaf Arrowhead
Bur-reed, aquatic
Cattail
Floating Heart, aquatic
Grassy Spike, aquatic
Lobelia, aquatic
Marsh Marigold
Native Milfoil (non-invasive),
aquatic
Pickerel Weed, aquatic
Pipewort, aquatic

Pitcher Plant
Pond Weed, aquatic
Quillwort, aquatic
Rose Pogonia
Sedge
Swamp Candles
Water Lily, aquatic
Water Purslane, aquatic
Wild Celery, aquatic

Cardinal Flower



Photo by C.A. Rocheleau

Swamp Candle



Photo by C.A. Rocheleau

Rose Pogonia



Photo by C.A. Rocheleau

Invasive Plants in Fitzwilliam

The 2009 Fitzwilliam Natural Resources Inventory regrettably includes alien or invasive plants which have been noted growing in Fitzwilliam. Some of these species are expanding at an alarming rate, threatening areas of wetlands and forests by forcing out native species of plants and animals.

Local organizations that will assist landowners with identification of suspected invasive species plants include the UNH Co-operative Extension office in Keene, and the N.H. Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Committee. Controls for invasive species may include organic herbicides, cutting down, double bagging and letting all plant matter die off within the bag before disposing of bags in a trash compactor.

INVASIVE PLANTS IN FITZWILLIAM

Autumn Olive
Burning Bush
European Barberry
Giant Hogweed
Glossy Buckthorn
Japanese Barberry
Japanese Knotweed
Multiflora Rose
Norway Maple
Oriental Bittersweet
Purple Loosestrife
Tatarian Honeysuckle
Tree of Heaven
Yellow Flag Iris

<p>PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF ANY SUSPECTED INVASIVE PLANT MATERIAL IN COMPOSTING AREAS ON YOUR LAND OR AT LOCAL TRANSFER STATION.</p>
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Recommendations

- Continue to offer landowners tax incentives to keep property of over ten acres in current use as undeveloped land as authorized by N.H. RSA 79-A.
- Pursue conservation easements on the town forests to afford permanent conservation protection.
- Maintain 75 feet or more of undisturbed buffer zones around all known or discovered vernal pools, wetlands, and bodies of water.
- Encourage the Conservation Commission to explore Fitzwilliam's involvement with University of New Hampshire Community Environmental Outreach Program, UNH Seniors Project, or similar Antioch or Franklin Pierce University programs. This involvement could result in wetland assessments, wildlife management plans, or other natural resource projects approved for assistance.
- Encourage Fitzwilliam Garden Club members to promote and provide education in landscaping with native plants as a means of encouraging noninvasive and pest resistant plant species.

Fitzwilliam Otter and a Bald Eagle meet over fish dinner



Photo with permission of Nancy and Warren Hall

Resources

Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission. 1996. Inventory of the natural resources of the town of Fitzwilliam 1996. Fitzwilliam, NH.

Fitzwilliam Land Use Office. 2008. Residential development information. Fitzwilliam, NH.

- Fitzwilliam Natural Resources Inventory Committee. 2007-8. Fitzwilliam natural resources inventory surveys. Fitzwilliam, NH.
- Fitzwilliam Selectmen's Office. 2008. Building permit and construction information. Fitzwilliam, NH.
- Huebner, C. D.; Olson, C.; Smith, H. C. 2005. Invasive Plants Field and Reference Guide: An Ecological Perspective of Plant Invaders of Forests and Woodlands. NA-TP-05-04. Morgantown, WV: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. 86p.
- New Hampshire Audubon Society. Concord, NH (www.nh.audubon.org)
- New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules. 2008. Invasive species, Chapter Agr. 3800. Concord, NH.
(<http://www.nh.gov/agric/rules/documents/AmendedInvasiveRules.pdf>)
- New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game. 2006. New Hampshire wildlife action plan. Concord, NH. (www.wildlife.state.nh.us)
- New Hampshire Department of Revenue. 2009. Fitzwilliam timber cut information. Concord, NH. (www.nh.gov/revenue/)
- New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands. Concord, NH. (www.nhdf.org)
- New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau. 2006. Nongame and endangered wildlife program listings. Concord, NH (<http://www.nhdf.org/natural-heritage-and-habitats/>)
- US Department of Agriculture. 2009. Protected upland and wetland plants in New Hampshire. (http://plants.usda.gov/about_plants.html)
- US Department of Agriculture. 2009. Noxious weeds of New Hampshire. (http://plants.usda.gov/about_plants.html)

Black Bear



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